

Message Text

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S E C R E T GENEVA 14692

EXDIS

USSALTTWO

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PARM
SUBJECT: DRAFTING GROUP MEETING NO. 241, SEPTEMBER 29,
1978

SUMMARY: OKUN REVIEWED US POSITION ON ARTICLE XVI, EMPHASIZING REASONS WHY US BELIEVES SOVIETS SHOULD MODIFY POSITION ON ADVANCE NOTIFICATION OF SINGLE LAUNCHES FROM ICBM LAUNCHER DEPLOYMENT AREAS AS WELL AS POSITION REGARDING THE ORIGIN OF MULTIPLE LAUNCHES, AND TABLED WORKING PAPER CONTAINING EDITORIAL REVISION IN US-PROPOSED THIRD COMMON UNDERSTANDING ON DEFINITION OF A SINGLE ICBM LAUNCH. SMOLIN READ BRIEF STATEMENT SETTING FORTH IN GENERAL REASONS WHY SOVIET SIDE OPPOSED US-PROPOSED LANGUAGE AT END OF FIRST SECTION OF JOINT STATEMENT ON MEASURES TO INCREASE CONFIDENCE IN MUTUAL SECURITY OF PERMITTED STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS. END SUMMARY.

1. OKUN BEGAN BY NOTING THAT BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT OBJECTIVE STANDARDS WERE REQUIRED FOR ADVANCE NOTIFICATION OF PLANNED ICBM LAUNCHES UNDER ARTICLE XVI, AND PROCEEDED TO DISCUSS US DIFFERENCES WITH SPECIFIC ELEMENTS OF SOVIET
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 GENEVA 14692 291716Z

APRIL 12 PROPOSAL ON THIS ISSUE. FOR ONE THING US BELIEVED IT MORE APPROPRIATE TO DEFINE A SINGLE ICBM LAUNCH SINCE THAT WAS THE TERM USED BY TREATY, AND TABLED FOLLOWING SLIGHTLY REVISED VERSION OF US MAY 12 DEFINITION: BEGIN TEXT. THIRD COMMON UNDERSTANDING. THE SIDES AGREE THAT THE NEGOTIATING RECORD REFLECTS THE COMMON UNDERSTANDING THAT A SINGLE ICBM LAUNCH, AS REFERRED TO IN

ARTICLE XVI, IS A LAUNCH OF AN ICBM WHICH OCCURS WITHIN NOT LESS THAN SIXTY MINUTES OF ANOTHER LAUNCH OF AN ICBM BY THE SAME SIDE. END TEXT.

2. OKUN DREW ATTENTION TO FACT THAT US WILLINGNESS TO EXEMPT SINGLE LAUNCHES FROM TEST RANGES AS DESIRED BY SOVIET SIDE EXCLUDED THE MAJOR PORTION OF SOVIET LAUNCHES FROM REQUIREMENT FOR ADVANCE NOTIFICATION. HE EMPHASIZED THAT US BELIEVED TWO OR MORE ICBM LAUNCHES FROM EITHER THE SAME OR DIFFERENT LAUNCH AREAS WITHIN SPECIFIED TIME PERIOD SHOULD CONSTITUTE A MULTIPLE LAUNCH AND THUS BE SUBJECT TO REQUIREMENT FOR ADVANCE NOTIFICATION. US SAW NO DIFFERENCE IN NEED FOR ADVANCE NOTIFICATION OF TWO LAUNCHES FROM ONE ICBM LAUNCHER DEPLOYMENT AREA OR TEST RANGE, AS COMPARED WITH TWO ICBM LAUNCHES FROM DIFFERENT LOCATIONS.

3. US ALSO REMAINS CONVINCED THAT SINGLE LAUNCHES FROM AN ICBM DEPLOYMENT AREA SHOULD BE SUBJECT TO REQUIREMENT FOR ADVANCE NOTIFICATION SINCE THESE LAUNCHES CAN BE MISINTERPRETED. LAUNCHES FROM ICBM LAUNCHER DEPLOYMENT AREAS ARE MORE LIKELY TO GIVE RISE TO CONCERN THAN THOSE FROM DESIGNATED TEST RANGES.

4. AT JUNE 8 PLENARY US HAD STATED ITS READINESS TO MODIFY TIME CRITERION FOR DIFFERENTIATING BETWEEN
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 GENEVA 14692 291716Z

SINGLE AND MULTIPLE ICBM LAUNCHES PROVIDED SOVIET SIDE WAS WILLING TO MODIFY ITS POSITION ON ADVANCE NOTIFICATION OF SINGLE LAUNCHES FROM ICBM LAUNCHER DEPLOYMENT AREAS, AS WELL AS ITS POSITION REGARDING THE ORIGIN OF MULTIPLE LAUNCHES, AND THIS US POSITION HAD BEEN REAFFIRMED AT YESTERDAY'S PLENARY. US PROPOSAL WAS DESIGNED TO ENHANCE MUTUAL CONFIDENCE AND REDUCE CAUSES FOR CONCERN, BUT OKUN NOTED SOVIET DELEGATION HAD TO DATE NOT INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO PROCEED WITH THIS CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH.

5. SMOLIN SAID HE PREFERRED TO MAKE SUBSTANTIVE COMMENT ON US PRESENTATION AFTER IT HAD BEEN STUDIED.

6. SMOLIN THEN DISCUSSED JOINT STATEMENT, FOCUSING ON PHRASE PROPOSED BY US AT END OF FIRST SECTION, I.E., "...MEASURES TO INCREASE CONFIDENCE IN THE MUTUAL SECURITY OF PERMITTED STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS." HE REITERATED SOVIET OBJECTION TO INCLUSION OF THIS LANGUAGE ON GROUNDS IT CONTAINED CONCEPTS NOT HELD BY BOTH SIDES AND COULD LEAD TO DIFFERENT INTERPRETATIONS RUNNING COUNTER TO BASIC OBJECTIVE OF FURTHER LIMITATION

AND REDUCTION OF STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS. SMOLIN
DECLINED OKUN'S INVITATION TO ELABORATE ON WHY SOVIET
SIDE CONSIDERED US-PROPOSED LANGUAGE AN ALIEN CONCEPT,
SAYING HE WOULD RETURN TO SUBJECT IN THE FUTURE.

7. NEXT MEETING OF DRAFTING GROUP OCTOBER 3.
OKUN

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